Section I:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the

CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method for controlling the flow of exchanged electronic documents comprising the steps of:

           receiving [[a]] an electronic document by a recipient, said document being part of a set of documents which are interrelated through a non-thread historical tree structure;

           extracting and storing a plurality of unique identifier values guaranteed to be unique within a messaging network (GUID) GUID values associated with said document including a GUID for the document itself (SelfGUID), a GUID indicating a original predecessor document (OriginGUID) to which said received document is related, and a GUID indicating an immediate predecessor parent document (ParentGUID) to said received document;

           accumulating GUID values for a plurality of additional messages which are part of said non-thread historical tree structure;

           responsive to a user composing a new document related to said received document [[;]] performing historical participation analysis of said non-thread historical tree structure using said stored GUID values according to a set of user preferences to classify one or more potential recipients; and

           proposing at least one list of recipients of said new document according to said potential recipient classifications.

2.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of extracting a plurality of GUID values from a received message comprises extracting a set of meta data values.

3.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of proposing a list of recipients comprises a step selected from the group of proposing a "To" list of addressees, proposing a "Carbon Copy" list of addressees, and proposing a "Blind Copy" list addressees.

4.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of performing historical participating analysis comprises performing an analysis selected from the group of:

(a) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has not contributed a document within a specified period of time;

(b) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said potential recipient has not contributed a document within a specified recent number of messages;

(c) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said potential recipient does not belong to a top portion of a group of potential recipients when rank ordered by number of documents contributed within a specified period of time;

(d) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has not contributed a specified threshold number of documents within a specified time period; and

(e) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has not contributed documents at a rate favorably comparable to an determined pace for an entire group of potential recipients.

5.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising sending a notice to recipients who have been classified as inactive participants.

6.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of composing a new document comprises composing a reply message.

7.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of composing a new document comprises composing a forwarded message.

8.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of proposing at least one list of recipients comprises a step selected from the group of:

    (a) replying to all document contributors and document recipients within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (b) replying to document contributors and document recipients within an entire conversation tree;

    (c) replying to document contributors and document recipients classified as "active participants" within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (d) replying only to document contributors and document recipients as "passive participants" within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (e) replying only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "passive participants" within an entire tree of conversation;

    (f) forwarding to all document contributors and document recipients within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (g) forwarding to all document contributors and document recipients within an entire conversation tree;

    (i) forwarding only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "active participants "within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (j) forwarding only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "passive participants" within a current branch of a conversation tree; and

    (k) forwarding only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "passive participants" within an entire tree of

conversation.

9.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

        associating an OriginGUID value with said new document having

a value equal to the OriginGUID value of said received document;

        associating a ParentGUID value with said new document having

a value equal to the SelfGUID of said received document; and

        associating a new and unique SelfGUID value with said new

document.

10.   (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising composing a new

        document with new context by performing the steps of:

        associating a null OriginGUID value and null ParentGUID value

with said new document; and

        associating a new and unique SelfGUID value with said new

document.

11.   (currently amended) An article of manufacture ~~A computer readable medium encoded with software~~ for controlling the flow of exchanged documents ~~, said software performing the steps of~~ comprising:

a computer readable medium suitable for encoding software programs:

one or more software programs encoded by said medium and configured to cause a processor to perform steps including:

(a)   receiving [[a]] an document by a recipient, said document being part of a set of documents which are interrelated through a non-thread historical tree structure;

(b)   extracting and storing a plurality of unique identifier values guaranteed to be unique within a messaging network (GUID) ~~GUID values~~ associated with said document including a GUID for the document itself (SelfGUID), a GUID indicating a original predecessor document (OriginGUID) to which said received document is related, and a GUID indicating an immediate predecessor parent document (ParentGUID) to said received document;

(c)   accumulating GUID values for a plurality of additional messages which are part of said non-thread historical tree structure;

(d)   responsive to a user composing a new document related to said received document [[;]] performing historical participation analysis of said non-thread historical tree structure using said stored GUID values according to a set of user preferences to classify one or more potential recipients; and

(e)   proposing at least one list of recipients of said new document according to said potential recipient classifications.

12.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for extracting a plurality of GUID values from a received message comprises software for extracting a set of meta data values.

13.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for proposing a list of recipients comprises software for performing a step selected from the group of proposing a "To" list of addressees, proposing a "Carbon Copy" list of addressees, and proposing a "Blind Copy" list addressees.

14.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for performing historical participating analysis comprises software for performing an analysis selected from the group of:

    (a) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has not contributed a document within a specified period of time;

    (b) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said potential recipient has not contributed a document within a specified recent number of messages;

    (c) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said potential recipient does not belong to a top portion of a group of potential recipients when rank ordered by number of documents contributed within a specified period of time;

    (d) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has not contributed a specified threshold number of documents within a specified time period; and

    (e) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has not contributed documents at a rate favorably comparable to an determined pace for an entire group of potential recipients.

15.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for sending a notice to recipients who have been classified as inactive participants.

16.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for composing a new document comprises software for composing a reply message.

17.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for composing a new document comprises software for composing a forwarded message.

18.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for proposing at least one list of recipients comprises software for performing a step selected from the group of:

    (a) replying to all document contributors and document recipients within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (b) replying to document contributors and document recipients within an entire conversation tree;

    (c) replying to document contributors and document recipients classified as "active participants" within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (d) replying only to document contributors and document recipients as "passive participants" within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (e) replying only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "passive participants" within an entire tree of conversation;

    (f) forwarding to all document contributors and document recipients within a current branch of a conversation tree;

    (g) forwarding to all document contributors and document recipients within an entire conversation tree;

    (i) forwarding only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "active participants "within a current branch of a

conversation tree;

(j) forwarding only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "passive participants" within a current branch of a conversation tree; and

(k) forwarding only to document contributors and document recipients classified as "passive participants" within an entire tree of conversation.

19.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software further performs the steps of:

associating an OriginGUID value with said new document having a value equal to the OriginGUID value of said received document;

associating a ParentGUID value with said new document having a value equal to the SelfGUID of said received document; and

associating a new and unique SelfGUID value with said new document.

20.   (currently amended) The article ~~computer readable medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for composing a new document with new context by performing the steps of:

associating a null OriginGUID value and null ParentGUID value with said new document; and

associating a new and unique SelfGUID value with said new document.

21.   (currently amended) A system for controlling the flow of exchanged documents
        comprising:

                a first electronic document having a plurality of associated Globally Unique
        Identifier (GUID) values including a GUID for the document itself (SelfGUID), a GUID
        indicating a original predecessor document (OriginGUID) to which said received
        document is related, and a GUID indicating an immediate predecessor parent document
        (ParentGUID) to said received document, said document being part of a set of documents
        which are interrelated through a non-thread historical tree structure, said GUID values
        being guaranteed unique within a messaging network;

                a GUID extractor ~~adapted~~ configured to extract and store said first document
        GUID values, and to accumulate GUID values for a plurality of additional messages
        which are part of said non-thread historical tree structure ;

                ~~a new document composer for creating a document related to said received~~
        ~~document;~~

                an historical participation analyzer cooperative with a new document composer
        configured ~~adapted~~ to, responsive to composing a new document related to said non-
        thread historical tree structure, analyze ~~consider~~ said stored GUID values and to classify
        one or more potential recipients according to a set of user preferences; and

                a recipient list generator configured to propose at least one list of recipients of
        said new document according to said potential recipient classifications.

22.   (currently amended) The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said GUID extractor is
        further ~~adapted~~ configured to extract a set of meta data values.

23.   (currently amended) The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said recipient list
        generator is further ~~adapted~~ configured to propose a list selected from the group of a "To"
        list of addressees, a "Carbon Copy" list of addressees, and a "Blind Copy" list
        addressees.

24.   (currently amended) The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said historical

participating analyzer is further ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to perform an analysis selected from

the group of:

       (a) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has

              not contributed a document within a specified period of time;

       (b) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said potential

              recipient has not contributed a document within a specified

              recent number of messages;

       (c) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said potential

              recipient does not belong to a top portion of a group of

              potential recipients when rank ordered by number of

              documents contributed within a specified period of time;

       (d) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has

              not contributed a specified threshold number of documents

              within a specified time period; and

       (e) designating a potential recipient as inactive if said participant has

              not contributed documents at a rate favorably comparable to an

              determined pace for an entire group of potential recipients.

25.   (original) The system as set forth in Claim 21 further comprising a termination

notice sender for sending notification to recipients who have been classified

as inactive participants.

26.   (original) The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said new document composer is

further configured to compose a reply message.

27.   (original) The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said new document composer is

further configured to compose a forward message.

28.   (original) The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said recipient list generator
        is adapted to propose a list to a set of recipients selected from the group of:

        (a) all document contributors and document recipients within a current
            branch of a conversation tree;

        (b) all document contributors and document recipients within an entire
            conversation tree;

        (c) all document contributors and document recipients classified as
            "active participants" within a current branch of a conversation
            tree;

        (d) only document contributors and document recipients as "passive
            participants" within a current branch of a conversation tree;
                and,

        (e) only document contributors and document recipients
            classified as "passive participants" within an entire tree of
            conversation.

29.   (original) The system as set forth in Claim 21 further comprising:
                an OriginGUID value associated with said new document having
        a value equal to the OriginGUID value of said first document;
                a ParentGUID value associated with said new document having
        a value equal to the SelfGUID of said first document; and
                a new and unique SelfGUID value associated with said new document.

30.   (original) The system as set forth in Claim 21 in which said new document is provided
        a new context including:
                a null OriginGUID value and a null ParentGUID value associated with
        said new document; and
                a new and unique SelfGUID value associated with associated with said
        new document.